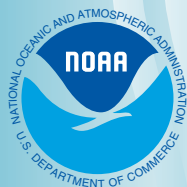




NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
HUMPBACK WHALE

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was designated to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. Humpback whales can be seen in Hawai'i's nearshore waters during the winter and their impressive acrobatic displays are often visible from miles away.



Humpback Whale Behaviors

*Typical humpback whale behaviors
seen in Hawaiian waters*

Blow



On average, adult humpbacks take a breath every 10-15 minutes, but can remain submerged for as long as 45 minutes. Calves must rise to the surface every 3-5 minutes.

Head Rise or Spy Hop



A whale rises vertically toward the surface, with its head out of the water. Some believe this behavior allows the whale to look at activity going on above the surface.

Tail Slap



A humpback raises its tail flukes out of the water and slaps them forcefully on the surface of the water. This behavior is often repetitive and may serve as a warning.

Pec Slap



Humpbacks will slap the water's surface with one or both fins simultaneously. The slapping of fins may serve as a communication signal to other whales.

Head Lunge



A competitive display in which the humpback whale lunges forward with its head raised above the water.

Peduncle Slap



An energetic display where the whale throws its tail out of the water and in the process, slaps its peduncle on the surface.

Fluke Up Dive



The tail of the humpback appears out of the water in an upward arch and slowly rolls underwater in conjunction with a dive.

Breach



An acrobatic display where the humpback uses its tail to launch itself out of the water then lands back on the surface with a splash.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

For More Information Visit the Sanctuary Website at: <http://hawaiiumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>